



# ***News Release***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **DES AWARDED \$6.3 MILLION FOR WELFARE REFORM PERFORMANCE FIRST IN THE CATEGORY OF SUCCESS IN THE WORKFORCE**

(PHOENIX, December 27, 2000) – Governor Jane Dee Hull announced today that Arizona received \$6,346,332 in High Performance Bonus funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the state's continued success in moving people from welfare to work during fiscal year 1999. Of the 45 states that competed for the awards, Arizona placed first in the category of "Success in the Workforce", and placed ninth in the category of "Most Improvement in the Success in the Workforce Rate". Only 27 states and the District of Columbia will receive High Performance Bonus funds this year, she said

"Arizona continues to provide creative ways to remove barriers to employment in order to move people from welfare to work by helping people find jobs that lead to individuals and families achieving their full potential," said Governor Hull.

The High Performance Bonus is awarded to states for results in four work measures related to moving welfare recipients to work and sustaining their success in the workforce. The measures include job entry rate, success in the workforce rate, improvement in the job entry rate, and improvement in the success in the workforce rate. The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Jobs Program and its community agency partners administered work-related programs that earned the Bonus.

Arizona's high ranking in the four performance measures is based on a strong emphasis on employment, mutual agreements between assistance recipients and DES to meet work-related requirements, a strong outreach to employers, and support programs, such as child care to help make the transition to work successful.

"This is the second year that Arizona receives a High Performance Bonus which reflects the efforts of DES workers in collaboration with community agencies on behalf of needy families," said John L. Clayton. He added, "This has been a great year for DES and the families we serve. Due to hard work and dedication we recently received four bonuses which include the Welfare High Performance Bonus of \$6.3 million, Adoption Placement of \$496,229, the Jobs Work Participation Rate of \$2,707,663 and the Decrease In Out-of-Wedlock Births of \$20 million dollars.

The DES Jobs Program placed 9,612 cash assistance recipients into jobs during fiscal year 1999 at an average wage of \$6.43/hour. Various programs that provide families with services such as life and parenting skills, welfare prevention, employment transition and transportation assistance are helping Arizona to continue to successfully and effectively move people from welfare to work.